

E1

Sub 31

administering basic fibroblast growth factor to said animal, wherein said animal has endotoxic shock.

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Please amend claim 4 as follows:

E2

Sub 31

4. (four times amended) A method of inhibiting endothelial apoptosis resulting from endotoxic shock in an animal comprising inhibiting the generation of ceramide from sphingomyelin, comprising the step of:

administering basic fibroblast growth factor to said animal, wherein said animal has endotoxic shock.

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Please amend claim 10 as follows:

E3

Sub 31

10. (thrice amended) A method of treating an individual at risk for sepsis; comprising inhibiting endothelial apoptosis resulting from sepsis by inhibiting the generation of ceramide from sphingomyelin, comprising the step of:

administering basic fibroblast growth factor to said individual, wherein said fibroblast growth factor prevents endothelial apoptosis resulting from sepsis.

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